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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/089,711	04/01/2002	Gerd Lohn	27392/22890	2756

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EXAMINER

COTTINGHAM, JOHN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/089,711

Applicant(s)

LOHN, GERD

Examiner

John R. Cottingham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 20 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 June 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 6-8, 11-12, 14, 16-17, 19-20 are objected to because of the following informalities: line 1, the term "anther" should be --another; line 3, the term "and/or" renders the claim indefinite, because it is unclear as to what is claimed; line 4, the phrase "in particular" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear if the surface is cone-shaped or not; claim 7, line 3, the phrase "in particular" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear if the axial dimension of one or more thread grooves; claim 8, line 3, it is unclear which end of the pin is the "free end"; claim 11, line 2, the term "and/or"

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renders the claim indefinite, because it is unclear as to what is claimed; claim 11, the phrase "in particular" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear if the surface is cone-shaped or not; claim 12, the phrase "in particular" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear if the axial dimension of one or more thread grooves; claim 14, it is unclear if the "stop" is the same as claimed in claim 1; claim 16, the phrase "in particular" renders the claim indefinite; claim 16, the phrase "in particular" renders the claim indefinite; claim 19, it is unclear if the term "stop" is the same as in the any of the preceding claims or a different stop; and claim 20 is objected for being a multiple dependant claim dependant on a multiple dependant claim and Claims 20-21 are withdrawn from further consideration. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Graham U.S. Patent 2,676,509. Graham shows all of the claimed subject matter of parts in Figures 1-4.

Regarding claim 1, parts to be connected P and 14 with one another by means of a screw connection, of which one has a threaded bore and the other a threaded pin 8, the threaded bore has, on a part of its length running out towards the entry, a

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transversely offset hole 20 widening into which the threaded pin 8 can be axially inserted, the threaded pin being transversely moveable between this transversely offset insertion position and a position which is coaxial with regard to the threaded bore and engaging into the remaining thread grooves of the threaded bore, the parts being screwable against a stop (the threaded interface when the bolt is fully inserted) effective between them, and the hole widening being laterally covered over by a wall section of the one part P, wherein the stop is formed by means of the end of the one part having the threaded bore and an annular shoulder, face the one part in the foot region 17 of the threaded pin 8.

Regarding claim 2, the threaded pin 8 has a full thread.

Regarding claim 3, the stop position of the parts the annular shoulder 17 covers over the end opening of the hole widening 20.

Regarding claim 4, the hole widening 20 has a circular cross-sectional surface.

Regarding claim 5, the transversely directed offset of the hole widening corresponds to or is greater than the depth of the threaded grooves.

Regarding claim 6, wherein there is present at the transition between the hole widening 20 and the remaining section of the threaded bore and/or at the free end of the threaded pin 8, in each case a surface converging in the screw-in direction, in particular a cone-shaped surface (when viewed in combination with the threads on surface 17, it forms a cone-shaped surface).

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Regarding claim 7, the length of the length of the threaded pin is greater than the length of the hole widening, in particular is greater by the axial dimension of one or more thread grooves.

Regarding claim 8, parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection, of which one 13 has a threaded bore and the other has a threaded pin 8, the threaded pin 8 has on a part of its length running out at its free end a lateral tapering, and the parts being screwable against a stop (top surface 17 and the threads when the pin 8 is fully inserted) effective between them, wherein the tapering is so dimensioned radially and in the circumferential direction that the threaded pin 8 can be inserted over the part of its length into the core hole of the threaded bore, and is then moveable with its remaining thread grooves transversely into the thread grooves of the threaded bore.

Regarding claim 9, the threaded pin 8 has a full thread in its, with reference to the tapering remaining region.

Regarding claim 10, the radial dimension of the tapering corresponds to or is greater than the depth of the thread grooves. (the tapering is at the end of the pin and corresponds to the depth of the grooves).

Regarding claim 11, the free edge of the threaded bore and/or at the transition between the tapering and the remaining section of the threaded pin 8 there is provided a surface converging in the screw-in direction, in particular a cone-shaped surface.

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Regarding claim 12, the length of the threaded pin 8 is greater than the length of the tapering, in particular is greater by the axial dimension of one or more thread grooves.

Regarding claim 13, the radial dimension of the tapering corresponds to or is greater than the depth of the threaded grooves. (the tapering (at the end of pin 8) correspond to the depth of the thread grooves).

Regarding claim 14, there is associated with the screw connection a stop (last thread) in the base region of the threaded bore or in the foot region 17 of the threaded pin.

Regarding claim 15, the stop is formed by means or radial stop surfaces (last thread).

Regarding claim 16, the parts are parts of a medical instrument. (The applicant has not specified what constitutes a medical instrument and what is not a medical instrument).

Regarding claim 17, the one part is a tool and the other part is a tool holder.

Regarding claim 18, parts to be connected with one another by means of a screw connection of which one has a threaded bore and the other has a threaded pin 8, wherein the threaded bore is widened in its entry region by means of an insertion hole 20 into which the threaded pin can be inserted, there is associated with the screw connection a stop in the foot region (last thread on pin 8) of the threaded pin 8 and the stop is formed by cone section surfaces convergent in the screw-in direction, on the forwarded end of the threaded pin 8 and at the edge of the threaded bore.

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Regarding claim 19, the stop is formed by means of radial stop surface or by cone section surfaces convergent in the screw-in direction, on the parts.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Landgrebe U.S. Patent 5,70,749, Knoop U.S. Patent 5,733,137, and Savoji U.S. Patent 6,158,938 show similar inventions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John R. Cottingham whose telephone number is (703) 306-3439. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne H. Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-216.


John R. Cottingham
Examiner
Art Unit 3679

jrc